

February 20, 2023

I oppose HB5663 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM GRANTS.

This bill is nothing other than a sin tax. In prior testimony, I've testified how a lot of these programs can be done at zero cost to the state with volunteers with subject matter experience. In my capacity as an instructor and executive at our states largest gun rights organization, I can work with the state to find these experienced instructors.

Who does this effect? Many who need to practice and train the most, will not be able to afford this tax. As a life long resident of Hartford who only recently moved to New Britain, our urban legal gun owners will be effected most. The vast majority of my students are from the urban areas of central CT. I work for a retailer in Waterbury as well. I can tell you from vast experience that many of my urban minority customers do not have the same disposable income as my suburban customers. **Should race, ethnicity or economic background be the deciding factor in whether someone can practice self defense?**

Let me be clear, this bill targets minorities and lower income families the most. They deserve to be able to protect themselves safely through training and practice.

Therefore, I oppose HB5663

Sincerely,

E. Jonathan Hardy

Resident – New Britain, CT

CT Firearms Instructor

CCDL Pistol Permit Specialist